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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### UM GEOLOGY PROFESSORS RECEIVE GRANT

MISSOULA--

Professor Ian M. Lange and Assistant Professor Johnnie N. Moore of the University of Montana geology department have been awarded a \$54,000 grant under the National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

The two-year grant will enable them to study the distribution of copper and silver-bearing deposits near Lincoln and Wolf Creek.

The areas of study are part of the eastern late pre-Cambrian Belt Basin of Montana. The basin extends from central Montana westward into Idaho and northward into Alberta, and is estimated to be 800 million to 1.4 billion years old.

Copper and silver are most often found in granites such as those in the Butte area. The occurrence of these elements in the limestones and sandstones of the Belt Basin is less common.

Lange and Moore will analyze samples from the deposits in order to better understand the events and processes that led to their occurrence. This knowledge will help determine where similar types of deposits occur.

Greg Bier, a graduate of Michigan Technological University, will be joining the project as a UM graduate student.

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